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UNC Pembroke Leads 2012 Armstrong Pirate Women's Invitational; Sammarco Leads Individually





Posted: Mar 05, 2012

POOLER, Ga. - No. 10-ranked UNC Pembroke weathered blustery conditions on the first day of the 2012 Armstrong Pirate Women's Golf Invitational, firing a first-round 318 to hold an eight shot lead after Monday's action at Savannah Quarters Country Club in Pooler, Ga.

The Braves pace a pair of fellow Peach Belt schools as No. 23 Flagler is in second after a 326 score, with host Armstrong sitting in third after a 327. Three teams - No. 21 Central Oklahoma, Columbus State and Lander - are tied for fourth after 330 scores on Monday in the 16-team field.

Lincoln Memorial is in seventh place with a 340 total, while SCAD Savannah is eighth after a 342 score and both Mount Olive and Lenoir-Rhyne are tied for ninth after 350 team totals.

Armstrong sophomore **Kristen Sammarco** paced the field individually over the par-72, 5,824-yard Savannah Quarters course with a three-over-par 75 to hold a one-shot lead over UNC Pembroke's Meghan Moore (76) and a two-shot lead over a trio of players who fired 77s - Dana Watkins of UNC Pembroke, Ashley Shinn of Lander and Lauren Benetti of Flagler. Sammarco is searching for her second win of the spring as she captured the Kiawah Island Invitational on Feb. 4-5, while finishing runner up in the Newberry Invitational two weeks ago.

Sammarco paced the host Pirates with her three-over-par total, while sophomore **Jenna Birch** is tied for 13th after a first-round 82. Junior **Kelly Pearce** is tied for 22nd individually with her first-round 84 and senior **Kim Knox** is tied for 35th after a first-round 86. Senior **Victoria Bennett** rounded out the Pirate scoring on Monday with a 90, tying for 55th place.

The tournament concludes with a single round of 18 holes on Tuesday with a shotgun start beginning at 8:30 a.m.



ARMSTRONG STATE UNIVERSITY

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